

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1435

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 15884

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS VS

SUBJ: STATUS OF PACM IN MR-1

FOLG SENT ACTION EMB SAIGON INFO AMCONSULS BIEN HOA, CAN THO,  
NHA TRANG FM AMCONSUL DANANG 07 DEC 74 RPTD FYI

QTE

DANANG 697

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS VS

SUBJ: STATUS OF PACM IN MR-1

REF: A. DANANG 441, B. 514, C. 644

1. SUMMARY: IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE SEPT HUE DEMONSTRATIONS THE  
PEOPLE'S ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT(PACM) HAS NOT BROADENED ITS  
BASE OF SUPPORT AS AN ORGANIZATION IN MILITARY REGION 1. ITS ANTI  
CORRUPTION PHILOSOPHY, THOUGH NOT ITS TACTICS, HAVE BEEN WELCOMED,  
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AND PACM IS BEING CREDITED WITH STIMULATING THE REMOVAL OF OFFICIALS

REGARDED AS CORRUPT. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HUE, WHERE PHU CAM PASTOR FATHER NGUYEN KIM BINH IS THE ACKNOWLEDGED CHAIRMAN OF THE HUE PACM CHAPTER, NO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR PROVINCIAL PACM CHAPTERS, ALTHOUGH IN SOME AREAS PRESUMPTIVE LEADERS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. THE HIERARCHY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE REGION APPEARS TO HAVE ADOPTED A CONSERVATIVE ATTITUDE REGARDING PACM. CHURCH OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT ONLY A FEW INDIVIDUAL PARISH PRIESTS ACTIVELY SUPPORT PACM, ALTHOUGH THE VAST MAJORITY OF CLERGY MEN AND LAITY ARE CREDITED WITH SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLE OF ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS. IN DANANG, WHERE CATHOLIC POLITICIAN BUI VAN GIAI HAS BEEN NAMED TO HEAD THE DANANG PARISH COUNCIL, PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE CHURCH'S LAY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DIOCESE, REPORTEDLY AS AN INHIBITION TO PACM ACTIVISM ON THE PART OF THE COUNCIL.

3. PACM HAS NOT EXPANDED ITS INITIALLY VERY LIMITED SUPPORT FROM OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS. FATHER BINH IN HUE HAS DISSOCIATED PACM FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIETS, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE THE RDV'S OWN CHECKERED REPUTATION WAS AFFECTING PACM'S ANTI-CORRUPTION CREDIBILITY. IN DANANG THE WEAK RDV GROUP CONTINUES ITS FLIRTATION WITH THE MOVEMENT HOWEVER. VIET NAM QUOC DAN DANG (VNQDD) LEADER VU HONG KHANH TOLD A CONGEN POLOFF THAT HE WILL NOT ASSOCIATE HIS FACTION WITH PACM, AND OTHER VNQDD FIGURES THROUGHOUT THE REGION ARE ALSO DISINCLINED TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE CATHOLIC GROUP. NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT PARTIES HAVE INDICATED ANY SUPPORT FOR PACM, NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY SIGN OF COALESCENCE BETWEEN AN QUANG AND PACM IN THE REGION. AN QUANG AND CATHOLIC FIGURES DECORATE THE ADVISORY COMITE OF THE PEOPLE'S ANTI-STARVATION FRONT, BUT NEITHER SEEM TO BE GIVING MORE THAN MORAL SUPPORT TO THIS THUS FAR INACTIVE EFFORT. AN QUANG AND CATHOLIC NOMINAL PARTICIPATION IN THIS FRONT DOES NOT APPEAR TO AUGUR FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN AN QUANG AND PACM.

4. PACM PUBLIC ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN MINIMAL IN THE REGION SINCE THE OCT 21 DANANG ANTI-CORRUPTION SEMINARY PRESIDED OVER BY VICAR GENERAL FATHER NGUYEN QUANG XUYEN, AT WHICH SOME 400 CATHOLICS HEARD XUYEN SUPPORT THE AIMS OF THE GOVT. THE LEADERSHIP OF ONE DANANG PARISH ATTEMPTED BRIEFLY TO CAPITALIZE ON THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT TO FURTHER ITS DEMAND FOR A SEPARATE ADMINISTRATI  
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STATUS, BUT THE PRIEST WHO ADDRESSED THE NOV 17 GATHERING TOOK PAINS TO STRESS IN HIS REMARKS AGAINST CORRUPTION THAT HE SPOKE AS AN INDIVIDUAL. VIRTUALLY ALL INFORMED OBSERVERS TELL US THAT THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE CATHOLICS OF MR-1, PARTICULARLY IN POPULOUS DANANG, WOULD TAKE TO THE STREETS AT PACM INITIATIVE.

5. THE ABSENCE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM THE HIERARCHY, THE LACK OF

FORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES, THE FAILURE TO OBTAIN BROADENED SUPPORT FROM ORGANIZED POLITICAL GROUPS, AND THE DEARTH OF PUBLIC ACTIVITIES BY PACM DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THE ANTI-CORRUPTION THEMES OF PACM ARE NOT SUPPORTED WIDELY IN THE REGION. THE CONTRARY IS THE CASE. PACM IS CREDITED WITH AFFECTING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN PERSONNEL IN THE REGION, PRINCIPALLY THE PROVINCE CHIEF OF THUA THIEN, COL TON THAT KHIEU, WHO WAS WIDELY REGARDED AS CORRUPT, REMOVED FOLLOWING HIS INEPT HANDLING OF THE SEPT 8 HUE DEMONSTRATIONS

, AND THE DEP MAYOR OF DANANG, NGUYEN KHOA TANH, WHO HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE MIN OF INTERIOR IN SAIGON FOLLOWING A PRESS CAMPAIGN REPORTEDLY PREPARED BY PACM SYMPATHIZER BUI VAN GIAI. GVN OFFICIALS ARE WARNING THEIR STAFFS THAT CORRUPTION WILL BE PUNISHED, AND ARE BEGINNING TO BE BELIEVED. THE WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT THAT CORPS COMMANDER NGO QUANG TRUONG IS AN HONEST MAN DIMINISHES THE IMMEDIACY AND INTENSITY OF PACM'S ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS. THERE IS SPECULATION, HOWEVER, THAT QUANG TIN PROVINCE CHIEF COL DAO MONG XUAN, WHO HAS MADE POLITICAL ENEMIES BECAUSE OF HIS WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION TO THE DEMOCRACY PARTY, AND WHO HAS BEEN FOR THE PAST YEAR REGULARLY ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION IN THE PRESS, FOR MOTIVES NOT NECESSARILY WHOLLY RELATED TO PACM'S ANTI-CORRUPTION AIMS, MIGHT BE THE NEXT TARGET OF ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTIVISTS.

6. ALTHOUGH CATHOLIC LEADERS ARE QUICK TO PROFESS APPARENTLY SINCERE OPPOSITION TO PACM'S TACTICS, THEY COMMUNICATE A SENSE OF SATISFACTION WITH WHAT THEY REGARD AS PACM'S ACHIEVEMENTS. THE APPARENTLY HEIGHTENED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE EVIL OF CORRUPTION, AND OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT CORRECTIVE MEASURES MIGHT BE TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC OUTCRIES, SEEMS IN LARGE MEASURE ATTRIBUTABLE TO PACM. IN THIS SENSE, IN MR-1, PACM, AT LEAST IN THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE INITIAL HUE DISTURBANCES, CAN BE SAID TO HAVE HAD, ON BALANCE, A BENEFICIAL IMPACT. IF KEPT WITHIN RESPONSIBLE CHANNELS, THE PACM-GENERATED ANTI CORRUPTION SENTIMENT COULD

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MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO CLEANSING THE GOVERNMENTAL APPARATUS.

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7. ORGANIZATIONALLY, HOWEVER, WITHIN THE RANKS OF PACM SUPPORTERS IN THE REGION THUS FAR NO DRAMATIC LOCAL LEADER HAS EMERGED WHO APPEARS INCLINED TO OR CAPABLE OF OVERCOMING THE CURRENT CONSERVATISM OF THE CLERGY AND THE APPARENT DISINCLINATION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE LAITY TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. THUS STIMULUS FOR PACM'S EXPANSION AS AN ORGANIZATION WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO COME FROM WITHOUT THE REGION. EVEN SHOULD SUCH STIMULATION OCCUR, HOWEVER, PACM WILL NOT DEVELOP SERIOUSLY HERE UNLESS AND UNTIL IT AND THE AN QUANG BUDDHISTS, BY FAR THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FORCE IN THE REGION, COME TOGETHER FOR SPECIFIC POLITICAL GOALS, WHICH DOES NOT SEEM AN IMMEDIATE PROSPECT.

8. PROVINCIAL OVERVIEW: QUANG TRI, HUE/THUS THIEN. PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE PEOPLE'S ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT HAS DECLINED IN THUA THIEN SINCE ITS APPEARANCE THERE WITH AN INAUGURAL DEMONSTRATION IN HUE ON SEPT 8 WHEN THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE DISPERSED BY POLICE THROWING TEAR GAS. LATER THAT DAY FATHER TRAN HUU THANH AND THE HUE LEADERS OF PACM PUBLICLY ACCUSED COL TON THAT KHIEU, THE MAYOR/PROVINCE CHIEF, OF CORRUPTION AND THE POLICE REACTION TO THE EARLIER MARCH GAVE PACM A GRIEVANCE AND A PUBLIC POSITION. THE REMOVAL OF COL KHIEU AND THE HUE/THUA THIEN CHIEF OF POLICE AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY 2 MUCH MORE SYMPATHETIC FIGURES HAS IMPROVED THE ADMINISTRATION OF HUE/THUA THIEN, AND REDUCED A CAUSE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE INITIAL PACM ATTRACTION.(KHIEU, PARTICULARLY, WAS GENERALLY THOUGH TO BE CORRUPT AND SOMEWHAT INEFFECTIVE. HIS MISHANDLING OF THE HUE DEMONSTRATION MAY HAVE BEEN VIEWED AS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO OUST A PROVINCE CHIEF WHOSE EXIT WAS DESIRED FOR OTHER REASONS. THE NEW POLICE CHIEF, LTC HOANG THE KHANH, COMES TO HUE WITH A STRONG REPUTATION AS A FOE OF CORRUPTION.) VISIBLE PACM ACTIVITY SINCE THE SEPT PROTESTS HAS BEEN LIMITED TO A FEW BANNERS AND A

REQUIEM MASS THE THE YOUNG MAN ALLEGEDLY KILLED IN THE BINH TUY  
PACM CONFRONTATION.

9. ACCORDING TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE QUANG TRI PROVINCE COUNCIL,  
PACM IS NOT YET EVEN FORMALLY ORGANIZED IN THAT PROVINCE. THE  
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN CLAIMS THAT ASPIRANT PACM LEADERS HAVE TAKEN HIS  
ADVICE NOT TO RISK SOWING DISSENSION AT WHAT HE CALLED "THE PRESENT  
DIFFICULT HOUR". IN ANY CASE, IN QUANG TRI CATHOLICS ARE FEW, THE  
PROVINCE CHIEF (LT COL DO KY) IS GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE HONEST,  
AND MUCH OF THE POPULATION IS TOO HARD-PRESSED TRYING TO RECOVER  
FROM THEIR DISLOCATION FOLLOWING THE 1972 INVASION TO HAVE GREAT  
ENERGY TO SPARE FROM ALL BUT IMMEDIATE CONCERNS.

10. IN HUE THE THUA THIEN THE PACM ANTI-CORRUPTION THEMES APPEAR  
TO HAVE ATTRACTED THE SYMPATHY OF MANY OBSERVERS, BUT PACM AS AN  
ORGANIZATION HAS ONLY WON THE CURRENT SUPPORT OF FEW. EVEN AT THE  
BEGINNING THE PRINCIPAL AN QUANG BUDDHIST REP CHOSE NOT TO GET  
INVOLVED IN THE MOVEMENT, AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT AN QUANG WOULD  
EVER PUT ITSELF IN A POSITION OF APPEARING TO BE THE MERE FOLLOWER  
OF A CATHOLIC INITIATIVE. A VNQDD-VHK LEADER TOLD A CONGEN REP THAT  
HIS ORGANIZATION HAD DECLINED TO JOIN, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE HIS  
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP HAS RESERVATIONS CONCERNING PACM'S TACTICS AS  
WELL AS A RELUCTANCE TO SUBMERGE ITS IDENTITY IN THE CATHOLIC GROUP.  
ONLY THE REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIETS, A SMALL PARTY SEEKING A MASS  
BASE TO ENHANCE ITS OWN STATUS AND IAMS, TOOK A PROMINENT ROLE IN  
PACM AT THE OUTSET. SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, PACM IN HUE HAS DISSOCIATED  
ITSELF FROM THE DAI VIETS, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE THE RDV'S REPUTATION  
FOR PROFITEERING FROM OFFICIAL POSITIONS WAS SO WELL-ESTABLISHED  
THAT ITS PRESENCE IN AN ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT SERIOUSLY AFFECTED  
PACM'S CREDIBILITY.

1. EVEN CATHOLIC SUPPORT IN HUE FOR PACM APPEARS TO BE LUKEWARM.  
FATHER NGUYEN KIM BINH, THE LEADER,(GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS THE  
CHAIRMAN OF PACM IN HUE) IS A 52 YEAR OLD SECULAR PRIEST AND  
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THE RESPECTED PASTOR OF THE LARGEST PARISH IN THE CITY, BUT EVEN  
SO HE HAS NOT GAINED THE FULL SUPPORT OF VICAR GENERAL FATHER  
NGUYEN VAN LAP WHO WAS ACTING HEAD OF THE ARCHDIOCESE DURING THE  
ABSENCE OF ARCHBISHOP NGUYEN KIM DIEN AT THE RECENT SYNOD IN  
ROME. THE ARCHBISHOP LEFT HUE BEFORE THE SEPT 8 DEMONSTRATION  
AND ONLY VERY RECENTLY RETURNED. FATHER LAP TOLD A CONGEN REP  
RECENTLY THAT HE HAD TOLD THE PROVINCE CHIEF, COL NGUYEN HUU DUE, THA  
T  
IS DUE IGNORED PACM IN HUE, IT WOULD NOT GROW LARGE ENOUGH TO  
POSE A PROBLEM. IN ANY CASE, FATHER LAP SAID HE DISCOUNTED THE  
POLITICAL POTENTIAL HE SAID THATHE WAS THE ONE WHO ADVISED FATHER  
BINH TO DISSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM THE RDV.

12. THE PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD A CONGEN REP ON NOV 28 THAT HE WAS NOT

WORRIED ABOUT PACM AND THAT ARCHBISHOP DIEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RETURN HAD PROMISED COL DUE HIS "FULL SUPPORT". IN ANY CASE COL DUE HAS MADE A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL WHICH ARE DESIGNED IN PART TO LEAD A NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS OUT OF THE WAY OF TEMPTATION. NEITHER COL DUE NOR FATHER LAP WOULD CONFIRM THE REPORT THAT THE NEW POLICE CHIEF, LT COL HOANG THE KHANH, IS A COUSIN OF FATHER BINH, BUT LAP SAID THAT HE CAME FROM BINH'S VILLAGE AND, WHATEVER THE RELATIONSHIP MAY BE, THAT AND KHANH'S REPUTATION FOR HONESTY AND HIS MOVES TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE HUE POLICE FORCE BOTH PROBABLY ACT TO REMOVE A LOCAL CAUSE FOR PACM GROWTH.

13. DANANG: BISHOP PHAM NGOC CHI APPEARS TO HAVE EXERTED A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION ELEMENTS IN HIS DIOCESE, WHICH ENCOMPASSED DANANG, QUANG NAM, AND QUANG TIN. CHI SEEMS SINCERELY OPPOSED TO PACM'S TACTICS AND HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE GROUP MAY HAVE BEEN PENETRATED BY COMMUNIST ELEMENTS. HE HAS ATTEMPTED TO KEEP ANTI-CORRUPTION SENTIMENTS WITHIN RESPONSIBLE CHANNELS BY PERMITTING ANTI-CORRUPTION SEMINARS AT LOCAL CHURCHES. ON ONE SUCH OCCASION IN LATE OCT CHI'S POLITICALLY ORIENTED VICAR GENERAL, FATHER NGUYEN QUANG XUYEN, LED A RESTRAINED DISCUSSION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF 400.

14. XUYEN TOLD A CONGEN POLOFF DEC 2 THAT CHI REMAINS OPPOSED TO PACM'S TACTICS, ADDING THAT ALL OF VIETNAM'S 14 BISHOPS OPPOSE THEM. IN THE DANANG DIOCESE, XUYEN INSISTED, THERE WOULD "VEVER" CONFIDENTIAL

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BE PACM DEMONSTRATIONS BECAUSE HE, XUYEN, TO WHOM THE BISHOP HAS DELEGATED DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH MATTERS, WOULD NEVER PERMIT THEM. WHILE SEMINARS AND DISCUSSIONS COULD BE HELD AT INDIVIDUAL PARISH CHURCHES, XUYEN WILL NOT PERMIT THE DANANG CATHEDRAL TO BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD APPEAR TO BE GIVING CATHOLIC CHURCH AS OPPOSED TO INDIVIDUAL PARISH, ENDORSEMENT TO SUCH A MEETING.

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15. XUYEN OBSERVED THAT PACM HAD ACHIEVED GOOD RESULTS IN RECENT WEEKS, CITING CORPS COMMAND, PROVINCE CHIEF, AND CABINET CHANGES. PRES THIEU IS "NOT A MIRACLE WORKER", HOWEVER, AND IT IS TIME TO GIVE THE PRES AN OPPORTUNITY DURING WHICH TO COMPLETE THE IMPROVEMENTS HE HAS BEGUN. XUYEN DISMISSED FATHER TRAN HUU THANH'S CALLS TO PRES THIEU'S RESIGNATION AS AN EFFORT TO PUT POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THIEU NOT TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 1975. HE CONTENDED THAT THANH DOES NOT ACTUALLY MEAN THAT THIEU SHOULD LEAVE OFFICE BEFORE HIS TERM EXPIRES.

16. DANANG LAY CATHOLIC LEADER, VAN DINH BUU, REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE SHELL OIL COMPANY, CONFIRMED IN A DEC 2 CONVERSATION WITH A POLOFF FATHER XUYEN'S CONTENTION THAT PACM HAD NOT ORGANIZED FORMALLY IN THE DANANG DIOCESE. BUU, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DANANG PARIS H COUNCIL, PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT LAY ORGANIZATION IN THE DIOCESE, SAID PACM HAD NOT ORGANIZED BECAUSE IF HAD NOT BEEN NECESSARY FOR IT TO DO SO. PACM'S ACTIVITIES IN HUE SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT THE REMOVAL OF THE HUE MAYOR/THUA THIEN PROVINCE CHIEF, WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CORRUPT. THE DANANG DEP MAYOR HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO SAIGON AS A CONSEQUENCE OF PACM PRESSURE, BUU CONTENDED, AND HE HAD HEARD THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE 1ST AREA LOGISTICS COMMAND, COL NGO MINH CHAU, A CURRENT TARGET OF PACM-INSPIRED PRESS ATTACKS, IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SAIGON SHORTLY. BUU SAID THAT OTHER "COLONELS" MIGHT BE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT TARGETS (HE EXEMPTED THE DANANG MAYOR) BUT SAID THAT THERE WAS NO MAJOR FIGURE IN THE REGION LIKELY TO BE AN OBJECT OF PACM ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS. THE CORPS COMMANDER IS AN HONEST MAN, BUU VOLUNTEERED. (THE CONSERVATIVE BUSINESSMAN, WHO ADMITTED THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED THE POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE DANANG PARISH COUNCIL MOST RELUCTANTLY AND ONLY WHEN THE VICAR GENERAL ASSURED HIM HE COULD FIND NO ONE ELSE

SUITABLE, CLEARLY TOOK SATISFACTION FROM THE CATHOLIC ANI-CORRUPTION ACTIVISTS' ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE.) BECAUSE BUU APPEARS TO BE A CONSERVATIVE HIS ATTITUDE MAY WELL SUGGEST THAT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO PACM HAVE ATTRACTED A BROAD APPEAL IN THE REGION.

17. QUANG NAM: PACM HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICLY ACTIVE IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE. DESPITE THE INITIAL ENTHUSIASM OF LEADING QUANG NAM PRIEST FATHER LE NHU HAO, WHO CLAIMED IN LATE SEPT THAT PACM HAD ORGANIZED A PROVINCE COMMITTEE AND THAT CADRE WERE WORKING AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, NO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE HAS EMERGED. NOR HAS PACM DENOUNCED PUBLICLY AND PROVINCIAL FIGURES, AS HAO HAD CLAIMED WAS IN THE OFFING. (HAO MAY HAVE EXAGGERATED HIS PACM BY HIS CLERICAL SUPERIORS, IN VIEW OF THE DANANG BISHOP'S CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT.) CONGEN'S PROVINCE OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR QUANG NAM REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS SEEM TO BE AVOIDING THE MORE BLATANT ACTS OF CORRUPTION. OFFICIALS ARE NERVOUS; SEVERAL ANTICIPATE TRANSFERS, AND IT IS RUMORED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICE CHIEF, WHO IS REPORTEDLY ONE OF THE MORE CONSPICUOUS OFFENDERS, WILL SOON LEAVE THE PROVINCE. THE APPARENT CUTBACK IN THE LEVEL OF CORRUPTION IS ATTRIBUTED TO PRESSURE FROM HIGHER LEVELS AND INCREASED CITIZEN AWARENESS, BOTH GENERATED BY THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT.

18. QUANG TIN: PACM APPEAL IN QUANG TIN IS LIMITED. THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF INDISCIPLINE WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CLERGY THERE, AND PACM RESURGENCE IN QUANG TIN WOULD REFLECT A DELIBERATE DECISION OF DANANG DIOCESAN AUTHORITIES TO INCREASE PACM ACTIVISM, WHICH DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY AT PRESENT. CATHOLIC LEADERS HAVE INDICATED UNHAPPINESS WITH CURRENT PROVINCE CHIEF DAO MONG XUAN, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN COMING YEAR MIGHT FOCUS ON ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION INVOLVING HIM.

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19. QUANG TIN IS A HEAVILY POLITICIZED PROVINCE WITH STRONG HISTORIC VNQDD TIES. PACM REPORTEDLY APPROACHED NVNQDD LEADERS HERE, AS ELSEWHERE, AND WERE REBUFFED. VNQDD LEADERS HAVE IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN REPRESENTATIVES OBJECTED TO PACM'S ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT THIEU, SEEING NO REPLACEMENT FOR HIM, AND VIEWING PACM'S DEMONSTRATIONS AS ONLY BENEFITING THE COMMUNISTS.

20. THE PROVINCE CHIEF, COL. DAO MONG XUAN, IS HAVING DIFFICULTY KEEPING VARIOUS POLITICAL FACTIONS IN LINE, IN PART BECAUSE OF HIS SUPPORT OF THE DEMOCRACY PARTY IN 1973 AND 1974. A HARD DRIVER WHO SEEMS TO BE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE RECENT LULL IN MILITARY ACTIVITY TO IMPROVE HIS TERRITORIAL FORCES, COL. XUAN IS REGULARLY ACCUSED AS EITHER SUPPORTING OR BENEFITING FROM CORRUPTION IN RICE SALES OR THE HANDLING OF REFUGEE MONEY



IN THE PROVINCE; IN MAY 1974 HE FACED A CONFRONTATION WITH THE VNQDD PROVINCE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN OVER THESE ISSUES. IN CONVERSATIONS DANANG CATHOLIC LEADERS HAVE HINTED THAT COL. XUAN WOULD BE A LIKELY PERSON TO BE INVESTIGATED AND REMOVED FOR CORRUPTION. THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THESE SUGGESTIONS IS NOT KNOWN, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PACM MIGHT FIND SUPPORT FROM THE VNQDD IN AN ANTI-XUAN CAMPAIGN.

21. QUANG NGAI: THE PEOPLE'S ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT IN QUANG NGAI LACKS AN ORGANIZATIONAL BASE TO DEVELOP INTO A POLITICAL THREAT TO THE GVN. PACM IN THIS HEAVILY POPULATED PROVINCE IS CAUGHT BETWEEN THE DISCIPLINED CONSERVATISM OF CATHOLICS HERE AND THE COOPTING OF OPPOSITIONISH POSITION BY THE STRONG AN QUANG BUDDHIST ORGANIZATION.

22. CATHOLIC SUPPORT FOR PACM IS LIMITED BY THE PUBLIC POSTURE OF THE SENIOR PRIEST IN QUANG NGAI, TRAN NGOC CHAU WHO OPPOSES PARTICIPATION IN PACM. INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN MR-1 SUGGESTS THAT THE BISHOP OF QUI NHON ALSO OPPOSES PACM. THE DANANG VICAR GENERAL, FOR EXAMPLE, TOLD A CONGEN POLOFF THAT THE BISHOP OF QUI NHON WILL NOT PERMIT CHURCHES TO HOLD ANTI-CORRUPTION SEMINARS, SOMETHING THE DANANG BISHOP PERMITS. IN EARLY INTERVIEWS FATHER CHAU TOLD A CONGEN REP THAT THE QUI NHON BISHOP HAD FORBIDDEN HIS PRIESTS TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH PACM. FATHER CHAU CLAIMS HE WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH POLITICS.

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23. THE THRIVING AN QUANG BUDDHIST ORGANIZATION AND THE QUANG NGAI NATIONAL RECONCILIATION FORCE, WHICH IS REPORTED TO BE THE SUBJECT OF MANY MEETINGS IN PAGODAS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE, DOMINATE THE OPPOSITIONISH POLITICAL POSITION IN THE PROVINCE. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF PACM MAKING OVERTURES TO THE VNQDD, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS THAT THE VNQDD IS INTERESTED IN ALLYING ITSELF WITH PACM. THE LOCAL VNQDD HAS RECENTLY PREFERRED TO WORK WITH THE AN QUANG ORGANIZATION, WHICH MIGHT PRECLUDE A VNQDD/PACM ALLIANCE. PACM WOULD HAVE TO DRAW SUPPORT FROM BEYOND ITS CATHOLIC ORIGINS IF IT IS TO EXPAND IN QUANG NGAI, WHICH DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Reference:** 74 DANANG 441, 74 514, 74 644  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATUS OF PACM IN MR-1 FOLG SENT ACTION EMB SAIGON INFO AMCONSULS BIEN HOA, CAN THO  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, VS, PACM, (TRAN HUU THANH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005